

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the application. Claims 1-11 have been amended. Claims 12-13 are added. No new matter has been added.

Support for newly added claim 12 can be found in the original specification and claims as filed and in particular in original claim 1, 4, 10, and 11.

Claim Objections

The examiner is thanked for pointing out the spelling errors in certain claims. All spelling errors have been corrected. All claims are believed to now be free of this ground of rejection.

Non-Obviousness

The rejection in paragraph 2 on page 2 of the last office action of claims 1-3, 7, 8, 10, and 11, as obvious under 35 USC 103 over Wakita et al US 5,056,705 ("Wakita") in view of Anderson US 5,024,437, is traversed.

An essential feature of the Anderson invention that two metal parts, namely, a main body portion formed by investment casting and a forged face plate, are welded into a clubhead. The Examiner's combination of the teachings of Anderson with the completely different divided structure of Wakita Fig. 3, showing the Wakita invention and with Wakita Fig. 6, showing what Wakita

says is prior art) structure is a hindsight reconstruction. The hypothetical combination of Anderson with Wakita Fig. 3 is a hindsight reconstruction. Similarly, the hypothetical combination of Anderson with Wakita Fig. 6 is also a hindsight reconstruction. No statement in Anderson would lead the skilled artisan to select structure from Wakita. Neither is there any statement in Wakita that directs the skilled artisan to look to Anderson. The Examiner has cited no such statement because there is none. there is no motivation for one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of these two references.

The rejection in paragraph 3 on page 3 of the last office action of claims 4, 5, 6, and 9, as obvious under 35 USC 103 over Wakita in view of Anderson and Rugge et al US 5,851,160 ("Rugge"), is traversed. The deficiencies in Wakita and Anderson are not supplied by Rugge. there is no motivation for the combination of the teachings of Rugge with that of the other references. Absent a motivation, it would not be obvious. In the alternative, since it would not be obvious to combine Wakita and Anderson, it makes no difference whether or not it is obvious to combine Rugge with one or both of the other references.

Summary

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is

respectfully requested to contact David R. Murphy (Reg. No. 22,751) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants hereby petition for an extension of three (3) months to December 26, 2002 for the period in which to file a response to the outstanding Office Action. The required fee of \$920.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Marked-Up Version of Claims

MARKED-UP VERSION OF CLAIMS

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A golf club head comprising
a face for hitting a golf ball,
a crown,
a [sloe] sole,
a sidewall extending from the periphery of the sole
towards the crown excluding the face, and
a neck to be fixed to a shaft,
and formed by welding together
a face member for forming the face,
a crown member for forming the crown and
a walled sole member for forming at least the sole and
the wall,
the walled sole member made by monoblock casting, and
the face member and the crown member each made by
plastic deformation processing.

2. (Amended) A [The] golf club head [according to clam 1,
wherein the neck is formed by the walled sole member whereby the
sole, sidewall and neck are formed as a monoblock casting]
comprising

a face for hitting a golf ball,
a crown,

a sole,
a sidewall extending from the periphery of the sole towards
the crown excluding the face, and
a neck to be fixed to a shaft, and formed by welding
together
a face member for forming the face,
a crown member for forming the crown and
a walled sole member for forming the sole, sidewall and
neck,
the face member and the crown member each made by plastic
deformation processing.

3. (Amended) The golf club head according to [clam] claim
1, wherein

the neck is formed by a neck member, and
the neck member, face member, crown member and walled sole
member are welded together.

4. (Amended) The golf club head according to [clam 1] claim
1 or 2, wherein

the volume of the head is not less than 250 cm³.

5. (Amended) The golf club head according to [clam 2] claim
1 or 2, wherein

the volume of the head is not less than 250 cm³, and

the face member, crown member and walled sole member each have a specific gravity of not more than 5.0.

6. (Amended) The golf club head according to [clam] claim 3, wherein

the volume of the head is not less than 250 cm^3 , and
the face member, crown member, walled sole member and neck member each have a specific gravity of not more than 5.0.

7. (Amended) The golf club head according to [any of the preceding clams] claim 1, 2, or 3, wherein

the monoblock casting is a lost-wax process.

8. (Amended) The golf club head according to [any of the preceding clams] claim 1, 2, or 3, wherein

the plastic deformation processing is a press forming of a rolled sheet metal.

9. (Amended) The golf club head according to [clam 11] claim 1 or 2, wherein

the volume of the head is not less than 300 cm^3 .

10. (Amended) The golf club head according to [clam 11] claim 1 or 2, wherein

a sweet spot height is not more than 28.0 mm.

11. (Amended) The golf club head according to [clam 1]
claim 1 or 2, wherein
a depth of the center of gravity is not less than 36.0 mm.

Claims 12 and 13 are added.